



TREASURE

OUR

oregon

COASTS

and

ESTUARIES

miles of coastline
1,410

coastal population in 2000
1,326,072

fy03 czma core (section 306)
funding
\$2,000,000

fy03 czma enhancements
(section 309) funding
\$219,000

fy03 coastal nonpoint
implementation
\$128,000

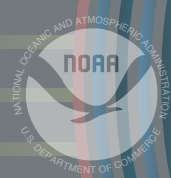
fy03 national estuarine research
reserve operations, education,
monitoring and stewardship
\$614,000

fy03 national estuarine research
reserve land acquisition and
construction
\$390,000

THE OREGON COAST'S DIVERSE LANDSCAPE CONTAINS BEACHES AND HEADLANDS, FORESTED HILLS, TAWNY SAND DUNES, PLACID ESTUARIES, AND RUSHING MOUNTAIN STREAMS. DAIRY COWS, THREATENED WILD SALMON, NEARLY A MILLION SEABIRDS, AND ABOUT 225,000 PEOPLE CALL THIS REGION HOME. BECAUSE OREGON'S 360 MILES OF OCEAN BEACHES ARE WORLD-RENOWNED FOR THEIR BEAUTY AND ARE ALL OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND BECAUSE TRADITIONAL FOREST AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIES HAVE DECLINED, COASTAL TOURISM AND RETIREMENT ARE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT COMPONENTS OF OREGON'S COASTAL ECONOMY. IN 1996, VISITORS TO OREGON SPENT AN ESTIMATED \$4.5 BILLION (A 36% INCREASE SINCE 1991), AND MUCH OF IT WAS SPENT ON THE OREGON COAST. THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF OREGON'S COASTAL AREAS. THIS LAW, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), RECOGNIZES A NATIONAL INTEREST IN OUR COASTAL AND OCEAN AREAS. IT ALLOWS STATES AND TERRITORIES, NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO BALANCE CONSERVATION OF THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT WITH HUMAN USES THAT DEPEND ON COASTAL RESOURCES.

THE CZMA IN OREGON

The CZMA establishes two programs to balance the use and protection of America's coasts. The Coastal Management Program gives states a flexible framework to address a broad range of community development, economic, and natural resource issues at the state and local level. The National Estuarine Research Reserve System protects key coastal areas for long-term scientific study, education, and resource stewardship.



Oregon Coastal Management Program

Approved: 1977

Lead Agency: Department of Land Conservation and Development

Oregon's Coastal Management Program is based on the Statewide Planning Goals and Rules — a statewide land-use planning program with guidelines for local planning and ordinances to protect coastal uses and resources. The program provides technical and financial assistance to local coastal governments to develop and update local land use plans prepared to implement these goals and rules. The program involves a network of state agencies that manage uses and protect resources in coastal estuaries, wetlands, intertidal habitats, watersheds, ocean areas, and other critical habitats. The program also works to maintain and improve public access to Oregon's famous beaches and other waterfronts — currently, there are about 650 public accessways to the ocean shore.

Accomplishments of the Oregon Coastal Management Program include:

- *leading a cooperative effort to develop the Oregon Coastal Atlas, an interactive online searchable and downloadable archive of coastal and ocean geographic data. The Atlas consists of four interrelated modules: Sandy Shores, Estuaries, Rocky Shores and Ocean areas, and is searchable by topic or location;*
- *providing financial and technical assistance to 7 counties and 33 cities since 1977 to develop, revise, and implement land use plans that guide growth and protect valuable coastal resources;*
- *providing technical assistance to coastal local governments to develop planning standards, identify geologically hazardous areas, and minimize threats to existing and new development;*
- *adopting new policies and plans to protect and manage ocean resources;*
- *developing new tsunami inundation zone maps to help local governments direct development and establish evacuation routes; and*
- *assisting local governments in building coastal access improvements such as docks, piers, or interpretive centers, or purchasing new public access to coastal waterways.*

Oregon's National Estuarine Research Reserve

South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

Designated: 1974

Lead Agency: Division of State Lands

The South Slough Reserve is one of a national network of coastal protected areas that conducts science, education, and resource stewardship. The reserve system is a partnership between NOAA and the states. The South Slough Reserve contains 4,770 acres of upland forests, freshwater wetlands and ponds, salt marshes, tidal floats, eelgrass meadows, and open water habitats. Major activities at the reserve include wetland restoration efforts, ecological research and monitoring, and K-12 and adult education. The reserve is located five miles south of the city of Charleston, Oregon, on the South Slough of the Coos Bay estuary.

RESEARCH: The Reserve's research program hosts annual research cruises on the NOAA ship *McArthur*, implements the Pacific Northwest Coastal Ecosystem Research Study, develops Geographic Information System data, and supports the graduate research fellowship program. A major focus of the research program has been to describe the short-term variability and long-term change of various key habitats in the South Slough. Key research has evaluated the ecological role of commercial shellfish aquaculture and other non-native organisms.

STEWARDSHIP: The Winchester Tidelands Restoration Project is examining the most effective restoration of tidal wetlands that were historically diked for agricultural purposes. The project will study the benefits of restoration efforts on creating rearing habitat for juvenile salmon. The program is also developing the cooperative plan for watershed conservation, which engages the public in identifying and prioritizing parcels in the South Slough watershed for inclusion into the South Slough Reserve.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH: Educational programs focus on school age children, interested members of the general public, university students and researchers, and policy makers. Coastal decisionmaker workshops have been targeted at adult audiences to support the stewardship objectives of the Reserve program. The Reserve operates a visitor center and hosts tens of thousands of visitors annually.

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

The Oregon coastal program and the South Slough Reserve have worked together to assist coastal cities and counties in reducing water quality impacts from urban development activities. The coastal program has developed a water quality model code and guidebook for coastal cities and counties. The model code and guidebook provide local governments with options to address water quality issues in their plans and ordinances. The South Slough Reserve has been instrumental in organizing workshops and Internet materials to train local governments on the guidebook and model code. This effort has been accomplished through the reserve's Coastal Training Initiative, which provides high quality training opportunities for coastal decisionmakers.